COLLECTORS' CORNER #74 MARCH 12, 1976
GEORGE MISHLER

TELEPHONE CENTENNIAL STAMP

ANNCR: AND NOW, COLLECTORS' CORNER, THE VOICE OF AMERICA SERIES OF PROGRAMS FOR LISTERNERS WHO COLLECT THINGS-- WHETHER THEY BE STAMPS OR COINS, SNUFF BOTTLES OR OLD AUTOS, OR MERELY BALLS OF STRING. TODAY GEORGE MISHLER IS AGAIN SPEAKING OF STAMPS, WITH THE STORY OF A COMMEMORATIVE STAMP HONORING A GREAT INVENTION.

NARR: THE INVENTION IS THE TELEPHONE, THE GREAT COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE FIRST PUT TO WORK ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO THIS WEEK. IT WAS ON MARCH TENTH, 1876 THAT ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL SHOUTED INTO THE PRIMITIVE INSTRUMENT ON HIS WORK-BENCH "MISTER WATSON, COME HERE, I NEED YOU." THE ASSISTANT, DOCTOR THOMAS WATSON, WAS IN ANOTHER ROOM WHEN HE HEARD THAT FIRST TELEPHONE CALL.

MISTER BELL, THE INVENTOR, HAD WORKED OUT THE PLANS FOR HIS TELEPHONE TWO YEARS EARLIER WHILE VISITING HIS PARENTS IN CANADA. THAT'S WHY CANADA ISSUED ITS TELEPHONE CENTENNIAL STAMP IN 1974.

NOW THE AMERICAN CENTENNIAL STAMP HONORING THE TELEPHONE HAS BEEN ISSUED. THE FIRST OF THE STAMPS WERE SOLD THIS WEEK (MARCH 10) AT BOSTON DURING A TELEPHONE CENTENNIAL CONVENTION AT THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY. THE TELEPHONE STAMP -- A THIRTEEN CENTER -- WAS DESIGNED BY GEORGE TSCHERNY OF NEW YORK. IT IS HIS FIRST EFFORT AT STAMP DESIGN. THE PURPLE STAMP REPRODUCES A SCHEMATIC DRAWING OF BELL'S FIRST TELEPHONE...THE SAME DRAWING

THAT WAS FILED WITH HIS APPLICATION FOR A PATENT IN 1876. ACROSS THE TOP OF THE STAMP APPEAR THE WORDS "ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL." ACROSS THE BOTTOM ARE THE WORDS "TELEPHONE CENTENNIAL." THE HORIZONTAL MEASUREMENT OF THE STAMP IS SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN STANDARD COMMEMORATIVE SIZE. THAT'S TO PERMIT OPTICAL BALANCE TO THE DESIGN WHICH FOLLOWS AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE THE ORIGINAL DRAWING OF THE TELEPHONE.

REQUESTS FOR FIRST-DAY CANCELLATIONS OF THE NEW STAMP MAY BE ADDRESSED TO "TELEPHONE STAMP, POSTMASTER, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, USA, 02109. ALL REQUESTS MUST INCLUDE A SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE AND AN INTERNATIONAL COUPON TO COVER THE COST OF RETURN MAILING OVERSEAS.

ANNCR: THE STORY OF THE TELEPHONE CENTENNIAL STAMP. THIS HAS BEEN COLLECTORS' CORNER...NOTES ON THE WORLD OF COLLECTORS WHO BUY AND SELL AND, ABOVE ALL TREASURE THINGS FROM STAMPS TO STRING. NEXT WEEK (AT THIS TIME) ANOTHER LOOK INTO THE COLLECTORS' CORNER. THIS IS _____.

-0-

RC/RTD